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THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2014

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IMPORT NEWS

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WELLAND CANAL

Ice traps laker for 5 hours

ALLAN BENNER
Tribune Staff

Icey conditions on Lake Erie left a ship trapped in Port Colborne for nearly five hours on April 5.

St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp. spokesman Andrew Bogora said ice drifting into the canal from Lake Erie collected near Bridge 19 on Main St.

As the Federal Nakagawa, a 200-metre-long ship, sailed into the area at about 3:30 p.m., "it became pinched by the ice on either

side of the vessel," stopping its progress.

"The amount of ice on Lake Erie is such that if the prevailing winds are from the south, there's always the potential for this ice to be blown into Port Colborne and into the mouth of the canal and that on occasion can cause some challenges," Bogora said.

Nevertheless, he said, it's a rare occurrence.

"It's a weather-related phenomenon, and from that standpoint we are moving forward with the hopes

that we don't run into this too often."

Bogora said the vessel managed to "basically wiggle itself free," while the tugboat Seahound pushed it out of the way to allow the Nakagawa to continue on its way to Cleveland.

Although he was not aware of the exact strategies that the ship undertook to deal with the ice buildup, Bogora said "through repeated attempts to move forward and backwards the vessel did free itself."

He said damage to the

vessel was likely minimal. "I think it's fair to say that if the vessel resumed its transit, then it was seaworthy. Typically, if there's an incident where damage is suspected, seaway inspectors will attend to the vessel and an inspection will be conducted. In this instance, since the vessel resumed its transit, my suggestion would be that no damage was suspected."

The ship remained docked in Port Colborne overnight.

allan.benner@sunmedia.ca



QMI News file photo

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Michael Smith
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LOCAL NEWS

INFRASTRUCTURE: Wainfleet's Marshagan Rd. on the 2014 spending list

Tough winter on regional roads and budget

ROB HOULE
QMI Agency Niagara

We're going to need a bigger budget.

So say transportation staffers in a roads report to Niagara Region's public works committee.

Councillors were told last week the harsh winter has been especially brutal on region roads.

In its 2014 budget, the region set aside \$5.1 million for its road restructuring program. Of that, \$4 million is earmarked for Phase 1 of the program to resurface 13 sections of roads. The report says because of the harsh winter, the remaining \$1.1 million for the second phase will fall short of what is required to strengthen or resurface roads that are in a serious state of disrepair.

The report also notes the 2014 transportation operations budget of \$600,000 for patching and crack sealing of roads will require an additional \$400,000.

"We're looking at the first phase — a substantial phase — of the resurfacing and rehabilitation program," public works commissioner Ron Tripp told councillors.

There is going to be subsequent work. We are in the process of reviewing our road network now to determine those priorities. There is a possibility that we will have to come back to council proposing a different strategy in terms of growing the program larger than it had been contemplated in the capital budget already."

Tripp said staff will verify the condition of the region's roads once frost is out of the ground and will report back.

to council on what extra money is required.

St. Catharines Coun. Alan Caslin said he has received a number of calls from constituents regarding the state of some of the region's roads.

"It does have our full attention," Caslin said. "We are aware that our roads need help and we are addressing them."

The region emphasizes regarding its roads is one of rehabilitation as quickly as possible before it becomes necessary for a more costly reconstruction, but Joe Cousins, the director of transportation services, warned committee members what is being spent on rehabilitation on a yearly basis is falling short.

"Of the last few years, the capital budget has had to concentrate on a couple major structure issues — of course Burgoyne (bridge) and Central Ave. bridge, that's taken up quite a bit of the funding," Cousins said. "We've also been trying to play a little bit of catch-up in some of the urban reconstructs in various urban areas. Our concern now that the amount of money we're spending on an annual basis is not going to be sufficient going forward."

Cousins said staff will be coming back to council with budget recommendations when the spring cycle is complete and a review of the region's network of roads is completed.

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Life is sweet for Kim Videcak.

In fact, that's where many of the moulds for Heavenly Chocolates came from. Videcak has close to 2,000 moulds that can create up to 700 different types of chocolate goodies for all occasions. Along with offering milk and white chocolate, the business offers a



MARYANNE FIRTH/OMI AGENCY/MAGAZA

Kim Videcak, owner of Heavenly Chocolates in Port Colborne, has been busy preparing sweet treats for Easter.


While painting the pink nose and ears of a chocolate bunny, Videcak explained it's the "artsy part" of the

"It's nice when someone looks at what you've made and says 'Aww, that's so cute.' It's nice to see their

Along with being sold out of her home, Videcak's treats are sold at Eataly Foods, 22 Clarence W., Port Colborne; Tasty Thai, 1376 Haist St., Fonthill; and Efficient Tax Services 4-440 Niagara St. in Welland.

Videcsek will be at Eataly on Saturday, April 19, at 10 a.m. creating large personalized chocolate Easter eggs for the coming holiday. For ordering information,

The Tribune's Biz Buzz column appears every Wednesday. If you have a business tip, send it to maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca or call 905-732-2414 ext. 267.



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■ our view

CBC takes blow after hockey loss

The die was cast last November when the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. announced it had lost the English language rights to NHL broadcasts in Canada. Rogers Communications had purchased those rights from the National Hockey League in a 12-year, \$52-billion deal, making the CBC's iconic *Hockey Night in Canada* broadcasts would eventually be ending.

Fallout from the Rogers deal became better known Thursday, as CBC announced it would be eliminating more than 600 jobs and axing programming.

Further, the CBC announced it would be limiting its sports coverage to amateur sports and the Olympics, and that in the future it would not be bidding for the right to broadcast programming that involved professional sports.

Since Thursday, the role of the CBC has been re-examined and discussed by quite a few Canadians. Some are delighted that the federally-funded broadcaster is becoming leaner. Others are concerned that Canadians will be experiencing the eventual erosion of a national service that has helped to inform this country for almost 80 years while, arguably, helping to draw Canadians together.

There is truth to that latter statement. The CBC was organized ostensibly to ensure that Canada's cultural identity wouldn't be overwhelmed by an American brand of culture,

country of several quickly expanding U.S.-based radio networks.

By the mid-1930s, CBS and NBC already had affiliate stations established in Toronto, and there was fear their presence would only grow and expand into other Canadian cities. The CBC was organized partly in response to this American intrusion, and the new corporation was loosely based on the BBC in Britain.

Over the years, the CBC has provided an important role in informing Canadians about Canadian issues. But the corporation's most popular feature has always been *Hockey Night in Canada*, which has also been an important source of advertising revenue. Last Nov. 26, when Rogers announced its deal with the NHL, some observers suggested that the loss in *Hockey Night in Canada* revenue to the CBC could be as much as \$200 million a season.

Oddly enough, as much as the Harper government has been accused of destroying the CBC through a series of financial cutbacks, the Rogers deal represents the biggest financial challenge for the Crown corporation.

And with the departure of *Hockey Night in Canada*, one wonders if CBC will continue to be as relevant to most Canadians in the future.

The corporation is obviously grappling with that challenge, and is realistically shedding hundreds of jobs in the meantime.

It may not be reinvented itself if that is possible.
—Sun Media

Sheep, shepherds and donkeys

PASTOR GARY TOMIUCK
Wainfleet Congregational Church of Christ

Jesus calls himself the good shepherd and if you belong to him as your own personal Lord and Saviour He calls you one of His sheep. To more deeply understand the role of the shepherd one has to know something about the customs, culture and care they exercised over their flocks.

One function was that they would graze then gather their sheep into a sheep fold. This was an enclosure which was open to the sky. Its walls were made of stone or brick. It was a safeguard against thieves and predators. It kept out wolves, wild dogs, and cougars etc. A further measure of protection for the sheep was the gate or the door. Thieves would find no right of access—they would have to find another way to gain entrance. The Lord said in John 10:1 "The who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs up where he will is a thief and a robber."

This lack of caring dovetails with the false shepherds mentioned in Ezekiel 34 of whom God pronounced a severe judgement saying to them "whom to the Shepherds of Israel will I give you?"

For themselves, you have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost and they became food for all the wild animals."

We must know our Shepherds voice to combat these false teachers and their teachings. In the Old Testament, Jesus is the New Testament and shepherds which are what pastors are called will do all of these things. Faithful shepherds would guide the flocks which would move in and out through the entrance to find feed for grazing by day as well as protection and security by night. Jesus is called "THE DOOR" and He wants people to invite Him into their hearts and find comfort and eternal security in Him. He feeds the sheep as they "lie down in green pastures and are made little still waters" (Psalm 23:2).

As Shepherds the primary function of pastors is to feed the sheep which is preaching the word which in turn not only gives life but also nourishment enabling his flock to mature in the faith. The Lord not only goes with you throughout the day, He also goes ahead of you as well.

In the Middle East, a shepherd would carry only a rod and a staff. He would spend throwing it with amazing speed and accuracy. He could kill predators with a single throw who fought off the lion and the lion with the rod or the club. Now we come to the staff which was a long slender stick with a crook or a hook on one end. The shepherd would sometimes use the crook to gently lift a new born lamb to bring it back to its mother if it became separated. The staff

would also be used with gentle pressure against the animals side to keep the sheep on the path. Philip Keller a former sheep rancher speaks of going out into blizzards and bundling up two or three cold lambs wrapped in his wool jacket held against his chest. Much thanks by Trinity, the Lord Jesus guides, protects, carries and feeds His sheep. He gave His life for them and carries them close to His heart.

Let Jesus make His Triumphant Entry into your heart which we celebrate this Lord's Day which is called Palm Sunday. A day in which Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem on a donkey, its colt following (Matthew 21:7). He presented Himself as the Messiah on the exact same day when lambs were being sacrificed. And this was on Passover day. Jesus is also the LAMB (shepherd), who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29).

This calls for praise as was done in the past (commemorated by branches of palm trees) (John 12:13).

This calls for praise in the future when mankind will praise God for the branches in the hands. (Rev. 7:9) and this now should result in praise to God in the present as each believer cries out (Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the King of Israel.) (Matthew 21:9).

The Fair Elections Act is anything but

Let's do a thought experiment, shall we? Take a look around you. Look left. Look right. Do you see a head of a rampaging wild boar?

Yes, riding scooters armed with rocket launchers? No, you probably do not.

That's because Wolverines can't ride scooters, and generally speaking you need an opposable thumb to fire a rocket launcher. As far as immediate problems go, weaponized muskies don't really rate.

Now imagine if our federal government decided to enact the Anti-Armed Wesel Act to combat the issue.

"But wait, government," you'll say. "This isn't a problem. Remember the whole non-opposable thumb thing?"

The government, holding up a head of a wolverine wearing riding scooters armed with rocket launchers, ignores you and continues onward.

Fair? Not so much. Well, replace wolverines riding scooters with voter fraud and switch the Anti-Armed Wesel Act for the Fair Elections Act and you pretty well have the same situation.

To start with, the act is poorly named, unless Stephen Harper's Conservative government developed a sense of

humour and is being all ironic about it.

It's touted as a way to protect our democracy from voter fraud. Sounds like a good idea. Unless, you know, you happen to look at the facts.

How widespread is voter fraud in Canada?

Well, if you paid side those robo-calls from the last election that were designed to divert voters in Liberal-dominated communities to the wrong place to vote and on the wrong day, it's not a problem at all.

Seriously, it's not happening. Canada is not some Third World backwater, or Russia, where elections are just a farcical

show and fraud is as natural as breathing. It happens so infrequently, you should be more worried about Wolverines learning to drive.

This fact is all but ignored by the Tories.

The government down responsible for this travesty of a bill, Pierre Poilievre, the minister for democratic reform (a title that clearly doesn't mean what Poilievre thinks it means), quoted from a report as evidence that this was a clear and present threat to Canadian democracy.

See Elections Page 5

■ readers' views

ELECTION NEEDED

If Andrea Horwath doesn't force an election over the mind-boggling gas plant scandal, we will have proof-positive that she is indeed a political opportunist with absolutely no regard for the Ontario taxpayers.

HANK BANGOLD
PORT COLBORNE

THERE WON'T BE AN APOLOGY

On March 28, 2014, Peter Power calls for an apology from John Snodden for his "sleaze and derogatory" comments about Olivia Chow. This is not going to happen. When the far-right Conservatives have no facts or genuine criticisms to answer, they resort to insult and name calling. Mr. Snodden hasn't changed much in the past couple of decades. When Mike Harris appointed him as education minister in 1995, his

unecessarily confrontational manner resulted in strikes on the education system that didn't lead for years. While drawing a salary as an MPP in 2002, he spent much of his time on his private ranch in Oklahoma until criticism in his home province convinced him to return. He now has three horses that Olivia Chow is on a "gray trail?"

DAVID FOWLER
WAINFLEET

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LOCAL NEWS

ELECTIONS

Act bans get out the vote campaign

From Page 4

Then the author of said report, Harry Neufeld, pointed out Poilievre completely misinterpreted his findings, which found there were only a handful of cases of voter fraud.

The government has responded to this by pointing over our shoulders and screaming "Look over there!" and then running away.

How the Imagined Elections Crime Act wants to deal with this imaginary problem is extremely problematic.

It would ban a process called "vouching," in which those without up-to-date ID can have someone with proper ID swear an oath to their identity, which allows them to cast a ballot.

There is zero evidence this process has led to fraud. It allows tens of thousands of Canadian citizens to vote, largely First Nations Canadians and students.

If the act is passed, up

to 100,000 Canadians could be disenfranchised, according to recent reports. This cannot happen. You don't get to take away the rights of citizens to prevent a pretend problem.

But wait, there's more! The act also bans Elections Canada from running the non-partisan 'get out the vote' campaigns it has for ages. Instead, the government wants that to be left to candidates, who of course only try to get out their own supporters. Also, the candidates with more financial resources have a distinct edge over those with less.

Essentially, money and resources will trump the general principle that higher voter turnouts are good.

All this act will do is ensure even fewer Canadians vote. And we already have low voter turnouts.

The bill is an outright disgrace, and any MP who cares about Canadian democracy should reject it.

At the end of the day, the We Don't Like Voters Act benefits only one group — the Conservative Party. It doesn't benefit voters, because it disenfranchises many of them. It doesn't prevent voter fraud, because it isn't a problem. It won't improve the anemic voter turnouts in elections, and instead will make them worse.

The only thing it will do is make it harder for Canadians to elect a new government, should that

be the will of people on election day. And that is simply not acceptable.

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LOCAL NEWS

COMMUNITY

UN expert shares foreign aid experience

SALMAAN FAROOQUI
QMI Agency Niagara

A United Nations humanitarian expert is stressing the importance of aid in developing nations, on small and large scales.

Lakis Papastavrou, who lives in Niagara Falls, is an expert on international humanitarian development. He told a Rotary luncheon Monday it's important

the general public stay informed about the needs of developing countries.

"The needs in the developing world are so large, so with small groups or big groups like United Nations or international groups with multimillion-dollar programs there is still room for everybody (to help)," said Papastavrou.

"Small interventions focusing

on small communities that focus on particular sectors of the lives of people can also make a difference and change lives."

He emphasized the areas of utmost importance for these specific smaller programs are environmental stability, gender equality, providing education and fighting disease like HIV/AIDS and malaria.

However, he also underlined

that for these programs to exist, awareness in local communities about the needs abroad is also important.

"There is very little understanding of what is really happening in the developing world in this part of the globe, because there is so much development in our country," he said.

"People must not be afraid to donate funds in programs like these (Rotary clubs)," because in these programs small money can go a long way."

In light of recent humanitarian efforts abroad by local Rotary clubs, Papastavrou shared a wealth of knowledge from his own experiences in providing aid with the U.N. In poverty stricken countries including Sierra Leone, Iraq, Sudan, Chad, Kosovo and others.



From left, Cathy Henry, president of Rotary Club of St. Catharines South, with guest speaker Lakis Papastavrou and Najeef Syed, chairman of the International Committee of Rotary Club of St. Catharines South. Papastavrou was given a gift after speaking at a Rotary Club luncheon.

Papastavrou talked at length about having groups like Rotary clubs working on small and specific programs to jump-start aid missions, mentioning the intro-

duction of the breadfruit tree for hunger alleviation in Jamaica by the Rotary club of St. Catharines South.



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■ **WEATHER:** Early indications show hotter season, climatologist says

It could be a scorcher of a summer

RAY SPITERI
QMI Agency Niagara

Good news: We could actually have a warmer than normal summer.

Bad news: We still have to get through an inclement spring. Environment Canada senior climatologist Dave Phillips said there's a perception from some people that a harsh winter is followed by an equally miserable spring and summer.

Not always true, he said.

"A cold winter can be ahead of a warmer-than-normal summer and that is what our models, at least through the first run through, are showing," said Phillips.

He said Canada has made it through one of the most relentless winters in recent memory. It was the coldest since the 1970s.

There was more snow than snow, but it was the early

arrival and late exit, that was the real story of this winter, said Phillips.

"No question we had a tough winter. The ground is still frozen, but generally the (snow) cover is gone. The soil is still very cold and vegetation is certainly a couple weeks or more behind."

"To me, the first sign of spring is the smell of it, even before you actually see it. It's those earth smells. We're not quite there yet."

"April is the month where weather wars break out. We change our clothes more than usual. Winter is holding on, while the summer wants to arrive," Phillips said.

"And it will. Everything is looking up. I don't want to hear people complain about the heat and humidity because they're the same people who complain about the cold and the snow," he said with a laugh.



MIKE DINIATTIS/QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

Paige and Chase Dionne stop along the path at the botanical gardens in Niagara Falls to check out the crocuses. The arrival of many early spring flowers has been delayed due to the colder spring temperatures, but a few days of warmer weather should get things going. Paige and Chase, from Michigan, were visiting Niagara with their parents.

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Neptunia

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Neptunia

This is the second in a six-part series looking at oceanliners that came to Canada with immigrants who settled in Niagara.

Although it was registered in Panama, the Neptunia served the Greek Line from 1948 until 1957. It combined both cruise service and the emigrant trade from war-torn Western Europe.

The vessel dated from 1920 when it was built at Amsterdam, Holland as

the Johan de Witt. The 147-metre-long steamer was completed in February and was soon trading to the Far East. The vessel would depart Amsterdam, stop at Southampton, England and then sail to Singapore and the East Indies with passengers, mail and freight.

It returned home via the Suez Canal, with stops at Algiers, Algeria and Genoa, Italy.

The Johan de Witt was lengthened to 154.2 metres in 1935 and carried on during the Second World War providing troop service for the Allies. It was laid up after the war, and sold on Dec. 15, 1948.

After an extensive refit, the ship resumed service in 1949 as Neptunia. It could carry 251 passengers in first class accommodation and another 568 in tourist class. It operated on a variety of routes including Haifa, Israel, to New York and Bremerhaven to the eastern seaboard of North America. There was also at

least one trip to Australia.

During part of 1952, the vessel provided cruise service out of New York to Havana, Cuba and the Bahamas. Then on Nov. 13, 1953, Neptunia became the last large ship to transit the Strait of Canso before the causeway was built. It was on route from New York to Quebec City on that occasion.

In 1957, Neptunia concentrated on bringing future new Canadians to our shores, arriving from overseas with families seeking a new life. Some settled in Niagara. But the year did not end well, as the vessel hit bottom and had to be beached in sinking condition near Coho, Ireland. The ship was not refloated until March 2, 1958 and was heavily damaged.

Following a sale for scrap, the hull was towed to Hendrick Ido-Ambracht, Holland to be broken up.

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IN BRIEF

Woman hurt in rollover

A woman suffered non-life threatening injuries in a Wolfleet rollover.

There were no serious injuries in a rollover that occurred on Forks Rd. between Feeder Rd. E and Phillips Rd. in Wolfleet. The Wolfleet Fire

Department received the call at 11:06 a.m. on April 9 for a single-vehicle rollover. An adult female, who was trapped inside the car, was freed and sent to hospital with non-life threatening injuries. The cause of the crash is still under investigation.

Grass fire under investigation

Gusting winds whipped a small campfire out of control south of Stonebridge Dr. at about 7:30 p.m. Thursday. Niagara Regional Police Const. Derek Watson said police patrolling the area

saw heavy smoke coming from a wooded area west of Elm St., being fuelled by dry grass and strong winds.

"The fire spread rapidly, encompassing approximately an area of 100 metres by 50 metres," Watson said.

While Port Colborne firefighters extinguished the flame before it could spread to nearby buildings, the police canine unit was brought in to search for three youths who had been seen in area.

Watson said the fire remains under

investigation.

Lawyer charged with intimidation

Defence lawyer Ron Charlebois intends to plead not guilty to intimidation.

Niagara Regional Police report Joseph Ronald Charlebois, 70, was arrested Monday and charged with one count of intimidation of a justice system participant. He was released on a promise to appear in court at a later date.

Police say they were made aware of an incident that allegedly took place in February at the Ontario courthouse at 59 Church St., in St. Catharines. It involved a local defence attorney and a federal Crown attorney.

Police report their investigation was initiated by officers from their criminal investigation branch and the incident occurred during open court proceedings. No further details have been released.

Charlebois has hired defence lawyer Peter Barr of St. Catharines to represent him.

There will be a trial, and he will be pleading not guilty," said Barr. "At that time the facts will come out. He will continue his practice."

Charlebois has an office at 172 James St. in St. Catharines.

Deal at credit union

FirstOntario Credit Union and Unifor Local 199 have ratified a three-year collective agreement.

It covers employees from eight branches and two support departments in parts of Niagara.

FirstOntario operates 27 full-service branches in 14 communities covering Hamilton, Halton, Niagara,

Halidam and Norfolk, Brant, Norwich and Oxford.

Heroin, pills seized in Port

Two people from Port Colborne are charged with a number of offences resulting from a drug-trafficking investigation commenced by police in March.

Niagara Regional Police said a male suspect was arrested Monday at which time they allege he was in possession of heroin, cash and a weapon.

A search warrant was subsequently executed at a St. Arnaud St. residence in the City of Port Colborne from where police said they seized more than \$2,500 worth of methamphetamine, heroin and prescription pills, \$345 in cash and items utilized in the sale of drugs.

Christopher Fergues, 27, is charged with two counts of possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking, possession of a controlled substance, possession of proceeds of property obtained by crime under \$5,000 and possession of a weapon.

Sarah Young, 31, is charged with possession of a Schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking and possession of a controlled substance.

Trivia night for cenotaph

Trivia buffs can test their knowledge Friday night while supporting the Wolfleet cenotaph project.

The trivia fundraiser, hosted by Wolfleet Historical Society and the township's cenotaph committee, takes place at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 613, 141 Hwy. 20 E. in Port Colborne.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with gaming to start at 7:30.

Cost is \$20 a person and includes snacks, pizza and door prize tickets.

The game is played in teams of up to eight people.

To register in advance, call Janet at 905-366-6978 or Doug at 905-714-9308. Walk-ins are also accepted.

Proceeds from the event will support creation of the Wolfleet veterans memorial. Sod for the \$75,000 project is expected to be turned this spring.

Cop discipline hearing on hold for Rudge

The disciplinary case of Niagara Regional Police Const. Dean Rudge, who was sentenced to four years in prison for providing police information to the Hells Angels, will reconvene in June.

Rudge did not make an appearance at the NRP disciplinary tribunal Tuesday morning in St. Catharines, which was presided over by an Ontario Provincial Police superintendent. However, he was represented by Niagara Region Police Association.

Rudge is charged with discreditable conduct, after having been found guilty of a criminal offence. He did not enter a plea at the time of his arraignment.

If he found guilty by the tribunal, he could lose his badge.

Rudge was sentenced in criminal court Jan. 9 for breach of trust by a public official. He provided confidential police information to members of the Hells Angels motorcycle gang.

The presiding OPP officer put Rudge's case over to June 23.



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LOCAL NEWS

CONTEST WINNER

Port man kicks the habit after 40 years of smoking

MELISSA MANGELSEN
Inport News Staff

Quitting smoking is one of the best things a person can do to improve their health. It's also one of the most challenging fights to deal with, said Lori Kleinsmith, health promotor at Bridges Community Health Centre.

Bridges held its fourth annual Quit and Win Challenge as an incentive for smokers in Port Colborne and Wainfleet to butt out for the entire month of March.

Longtime smoker Jeff Pietz saw it and decided after 40 years of smoking he had had enough.

The Port Colborne resident quit Feb. 16 and hasn't had a puff since.

"I've been thinking about quitting for a long time," said Pietz. "I believe if you're going to successfully quit, you have to want to quit."

"I decided to stop thinking about it and just do it."

In the 2½ months since he quit, he said,

he has noticed a big improvement in his ability to breathe, food tastes better and he has increased energy level.

Pietz was awarded with a \$100 gift card from Canadian Tire, which he has put toward a trolling motor for his boat.

Kleinsmith said the contest has been successful. She recently heard from last year's winner who remains smoke-free today.

Bridges' mandate is to support individuals interested in smoking cessation. It offers group programs that are open to all residents of Port Erie, Port Colborne and Wainfleet and individual counselling supports for its registered primary care clients.

Nicotine replacement products are available for eligible participants.

For more information on the Quit and Win Challenge or BCH's smoking cessation programs, contact Kleinsmith at 289-479-5017, ext. 2445.

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Twitter: @tribunelmelissa



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jeff Pietz of Port Colborne was the winner of this year's Bridges Community Health Centre's Quit and Win Challenge. Pietz, who smoked for 40 years, quit on Feb. 16 and hasn't had a puff since. He was presented with a \$100 gift card for Canadian Tire for successfully quitting smoking.

In The NEWS



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REVIEW

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► How does it work?

There are over 250 items available for purchase on the Auction, and all items work the same way. The winning bid is always the smallest amount needed to beat all the other bids, so you may pay less than you bid, but never more. ("see Smart Bid Information). If you are outbid, you can re-bid at any time. Note the Auction ends on Monday April 21 at 9 pm. The items will close on a staggered basis, so if you have multiple items you are bidding on you do not have to juggle them all at the same time at the end.

► Are these all new items?

YES! All items in Sun Media Niagara Sold Auction are new (unless otherwise specified), and come with applicable warranties, just as if you purchased the item direct from a retailer. The selling prices listed throughout this program reflect the actual retail prices of their respective items.

► Where and when does the auction happen?

Sun Media Niagara Sold Auction begins Friday April 18 at 9:00 am and concludes on Monday April 21 at 9:00 pm. The Auction is run through our online store, and is subject to all rules and regulations available on the website. Starting at 9:00 pm on Monday April 21, the sale will end item by item, on staggered expiration times.

► Who is eligible to participate?

The bidding is open to anyone 18 years of age or over. Employees of participating businesses may bid, but not on items that are provided by their respective companies. You must provide a valid credit card at time of registration.

► Does my bid include tax?

NO. Successful bidders will be responsible for all applicable taxes on the items they purchase. The taxes will be collected for all items applicable. There will be no gst charged on true Gift Certificates.

► What is the reserve bid?

The reserve bid is the lowest amount that can be bid for an item and still win the item. All items have a reserve bid of 50% of the Retail Value. Bids under the reserve amount will not be accepted.

► Smart Bid

Smart Bid is a convenient proxy bidding system on SunMediaAuctions.com. Each time you place a bid by entering your maximum bid amount (which is the most you're willing to pay for an item), you will be using our Smart Bid bidding system. SmartBid will then bid automatically on your behalf and at the lowest possible bid increments, until your maximum bid amount is reached. That's all there is to it! This pattern continues until another bidder exceeds your maximum bid, or until you win the auction. You will be notified by e-mail each time your maximum bid has been surpassed by another bidder. If you have been outbid, you can return to the site to place a higher maximum bid amount. The goal is to win an item at the lowest successful price. To do so, you must be the bidder who placed the highest maximum bid at auction close. In case of a tie for high bidder, earlier bids will take precedence.

► What happens if I am the winning bidder?

If you are a successful bidder your payment will be automatically processed on the credit card you registered with. If the amount of your purchase exceeds \$10,000.00 you will be required to come to the St. Catharines Standard in person with an alternative form of payment such as certified cheque or Money Order no later than 4:00 pm Wednesday April 23. Once your payment has been processed you will be required to print off your certificate from the auction site. If you have purchased a physical item you can proceed to the participating vendor to pick up your item or items. You must have a copy of your certificate along with picture identification. You must wait until at least Wednesday March 25 to do this. If you have purchased a gift certificate you must proceed to the vendor to pick up. You will be required to bring a copy of your certificate along with identification in order to pick up gift certificates. As well these will be available to pick up after March 25, 2014.

► Warranties and remedies

All products purchased from Sun Media Niagara Sold auction carry the same warranty and representation as if purchased directly from the participating vendor. The Calgary Sun takes no responsibility for warranty on any or all of these items. Any concerns with product performance and or warranty should be directed to the participating vendor, they will be happy to remedy any situation.

► for more information on the products available, visit www.niagaraauction.sunmedia.ca or www.stcatharinesstandard.ca, click on Niagara Auction

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ALL TIMES INDICATED ARE EASTERN STANDARD TIME

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■ **LYME DISEASE:** Diagnosis called woefully inadequate across Canada

'It's an epidemic and it's going to be shown as such'

ALLAN BENNER
PulhamNews Staff

It's a story Jim Wilson has heard "thousands of times."
They're stories about people across Canada suffering from

excruciating pain, and other stories about people who have died because the Lyme disease they were infected with was misdiagnosed and left untreated.

Three Niagara residents — Karmen Crowe, Matt Risi and Blythe

nda Turvey — have recently shared their own stories about living with Lyme disease.

Wilson's family has been hard hit by the disease, too.
The British Columbia resident said the disease claimed the life of

his son, diagnosed with it in 2001. His daughter was also infected with Lyme disease in 2002 after being bitten by a tick in B.C., and Wilson contracted the disease himself a decade earlier while in Nova Scotia.

"The only rare thing about Lyme disease in Canada is the diagnosis, not the illness," Wilson said. "It's an epidemic and it's going to be shown as such one testing is brought up to date."

About a decade ago, his struggle with the disease and lack of treatment options in Canada inspired him to establish CanLyme, the Canadian Lyme Disease Foundation, an organization now working with Rossana Magnotta, president and founder of Magnotta Wines, to help others infected with the illness.

Although provincial governments are responsible for providing health care, Wilson said it doesn't matter what province you're in — the diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease is woefully inadequate across the country.

He said Canadian

health-care providers have deferred Lyme disease treatment "to a handful of self-appointed experts in the United States."

Testing done in Canada to detect Lyme disease only looks for one species of *Borrelia burgdorferi* bacteria that causes the disease, Wilson said. But there are multiple strains of the bacteria that can lead to the disease.

"The number of positive tests that that testing protocol has picked up in the last two decades just confirms that it's doing a very good job of missing an awful lot of cases of Lyme disease," Wilson said.

Meanwhile, he said tests conducted at a few U.S. laboratories are finding people positive for Lyme disease "in substantial numbers above what the Canadian tests are picking up."

"Almost everybody who is testing positive for Lyme in the United States has had a negative Canadian test at some point in time," he said.

Wilson said a Health Canada report published

in 2012 determined that the tests used in Canada to identify Lyme disease were inadequate, but those tests are still in use today nearly two years later.

And thousands of patients continue to be misdiagnosed as having conditions like multiple sclerosis, and untold millions of dollars wasted on treatment for misdiagnosed conditions.

"If we were to start properly diagnosing patients and doing the research that needs to be done... there are many people who are either totally disabled or partially disabled who can get their life back and get back to work and become taxpayers again," Wilson said.

It's a problem Magnotta is addressing by working to establish a Canadian research centre for the disease.

Magnotta, whose Vaughan-based company owns more than 180 acres of vineyards in Niagara, lost her husband Gabe to the disease in 2009.

See LYME, Page 16

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LOCALNEWS

■ LYME

New centre to focus on symptoms, not diagnosis

From Page 14

In the years since, she established the G. Magnotta Foundation for Vector-Borne Diseases to create a research centre that will ultimately help patients who have symptoms of Lyme disease, but are undiagnosed.

The centre will be located at the new Humber River Hospital in Toronto, slated to open in 2015.

"How many are we misdiagnosing, and how many could we really be saving in terms of their lifestyle and their quality of life and the lives of all those people around them?" Magnotta asked. "Everything gets destroyed with this infection and it just tears families apart."

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Twitter: @abenner1



FILE PHOTO, COURTESY OF ROSSANA MAGNOTTA

Magnotta winery president Rossana Magnotta with Jim Wilson, president of CanLyme, speaking at a past Lyme disease press conference.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ SMARTPHONES

An app to make parking a snap

DON FRASER
QMI Agency Niagara

Traditional paid parking can be reliably annoying.

Street meters sometimes require a fruitless hunt-and-peck for coins. Debit and credit card payment machines can take minutes to complete, as you fumble with cards in rain or freezing temperatures.

Now a local firm aims to change that with a free Park App for smartphones that could replace standard meters.

With municipalities or private operators on board, it would only take a couple of taps to have parking paid and approved.

Those with only a cellphone would also be able to test their paid parking approval.

"The benefit to the consumer is the ability to do everything through the smartphone," said Phil Kirwin, partner of Creative Evolution at Chimpzanzee in St. Catharines, which is designing and building the app.

"There's no need for loose change, no chance of you putting coins in the meter and losing them, and less chance of running late and getting a fine or ticket," Kirwin explained.

"To not have to replace parking meters would be a cost saving to the municipality," he added. Expenses would be reduced by not having to have meters emptied of coins and maintained.

Municipalities would get onto the sys-

tem in an annual "pay-to-play basis," he said.

Signs would be placed at each spot, giving a number to text and pay, or app location to download. An app would open up, a customer selects the parking time they want, a pre-authorized payment is then completed. Traffic enforcement workers would scan licence plates at each spot, with the app indicating a payment was made.

Kirwin said some metered parking spaces could still remain — depending on the need — for seniors and others who may not have a smartphone or cellphone and rely on the change-payment system.

"There would also be a three or four-year phase-in with the app system and the system could be adapted for private parking operators.

He said "extremely top-level discussions" with the City of St. Catharines could lead to further discussions with senior management. Chimpzanzee's goal is to have the app ready by the fall.

Chris Day, City of St. Catharines' manager of transportation services, said he and staff "would have to look into it further to determine the feasibility of it."

"The city would definitely be open to looking at any kind of new technology to help out our parking system," Day said.

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WEATHER: A season's worth of garbage surfaces as snow melts

Cleaning up winter's trash

RAY SPITERI
QMI Agency Niagara

A long winter's worth of trash has surfaced now that most of the snow has left Niagara.

"The city will typically look very dirty in the spring," said John Morocco, operations superintendent for Niagara Falls. Spring cleanup crews will be busy

picking up garbage alongside roads, sidewalks and public spaces.

Water bottles, coffee cups and wrappers have been buried under snow for an extended period of time, hiding it from public view.

"We're uncovering a whole winter's worth of litter all at once," said Ralph Scholz, associate director of transpor-

tation operations for Niagara Region.

"It's a different winter than we've experienced for a while. A lot of snow remained frozen for the entire winter. Normally,

there are a few thaws and the litter would get blown around a few times. But it's been so cold. We haven't had a lot of winter thaws."

Scholz said the region has delayed its spring cleanup and sweeping program for another week or two as there's still a chance of another blast of winter.

While the region largely focuses on its roads because it doesn't own any parks, municipalities must deal with their roads, neighbourhood parks and trails.

Morocco said it's typical to see garbage surface at the start of spring, and that this year is not much different than in the past.

He said it's common for garbage bins to tip over near parks and for debris to be buried under snow.

"We'll be bringing in our seasonal staff in another week or two."

Along with street sweepers,



QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

City crews around the Niagara region will be busy cleaning up the garbage along fences and roadways.

Morocco said, crews will also have to clear branches that have fallen in parks during the winter.

"We'll get at the stuff that has been frozen in ice."

Vince Beaudoin, a public works foreman for Welland, said through patrols, officials find that people are illegally dumping litter along country roads.

"We started our street sweeping this week. We sweep the roads and get the sand off the centre lines and the curb lines."

Robert Riediger, operations manager for St. Catharines, said garbage is always a problem at the beginning of spring.

"We're aware of the problem and we're moving to get it cleaned

up."

He said crews have already started to pick up litter from roadways and a crew will soon be working a midnight shift to clean up road islands and bridges. A contractor will then be brought in to do a full-scale spring cleanup of roads.

Riediger said in the near future, a city committee will be hosting an event where various groups will come together to clean up St. Catharines.

"It's an opportunity for residents and businesses to get involved and clean up the city."

ray.spiteri@sunmedia.ca
Twitter: @RaySpiteri

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IMPORT DATEBOOK

APRIL 17 RAINBOW LOOM

at Wainfleet Township Public Library at 6:30 p.m. Bring your looms and we will provide the bands. Let's make some rainbow loom bunnies for Easter. This is an intermediate-level looming project and you must call 905-899-1277 to register by April 11.

APRIL 19 FOOD DRIVE

Brent & Jennies No Frills will be holding the Loblaws Extra Helping Spring Food Drive in the parking lot at Hwys. 3 and 58 in Port Colborne, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Items most urgently needed by Port Care are: canned fruit and vegetables, Hamburger Helper, tinted juices, pasta excluding spaghetti.

crackers, soups, peanut butter, diapers of all sizes, infant formula and baby food.

APRIL 24 CLASSIC BOOK CLUB

at Wainfleet Township Public Library, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Join us for afternoon tea. This month's selection is *Ivanhoe*, by Sir William Scott. Call 905-899-1277 to register as a book club member.

FIRST AID/CPR/AED

training, and on April 25, at Employment Solutions, 3 East Main St., Welland, 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Call 905-788-3751 or e-mail reception@employment-solutions.org to reserve a spot.

APRIL 26 TRIVIA NIGHT

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APRIL 28 EVENING BOOK CLUB

at Wainfleet Township Public Library, 6:30 p.m. This month's selection is *For One More Day*, by Mitch Albom. Call 905-899-1277 to register as a book club member.

at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 688 Elm St., Port Colborne. Get a team together, or come on your own and join a team, and enjoy an evening of fun, fellowship, food, prizes and trivia. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15a person. To reserve a table for your team and reserve your tickets call 905-835-8111 or e-mail firstlutheranpc@gmail.com.

Continued on page 20

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APRIL 30**PAINTING WITH MARGARET**

at Port Colborne Public Library, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Create a summer-time decorative plaque. Cost is \$10. Pre-register at the library.

FILM BUFFS

discussion group at Port Colborne Public Library, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Members view films

at home and discuss them in a group setting. Free. Call 905-834-6512 for program details.

MAY 2**DESSERT FASHION SHOW**

The First Presbyterian Church Women in Port Colborne are hosting a dessert fashion show by ALIA n Tanjari from the Lundy's Lane Outlet Mall

in Niagara Falls at 7 p.m. Admission \$7. Refreshments and door prizes. Call 905-834-7977 for tickets.

MAY 8, 9, 10, 11**GREASE: THE MUSICAL**

is presented by Lakeshore Catholic High School May 8, 9, 10 at 7 p.m. and May 11 at 2 p.m. in the auditorium.

150 Janet St., Port Colborne. General admission \$15: seniors/ students \$10. Call 905-835-2451 for tickets or information.

MAY 10**CENOTAPH WALKATHON**

hosted by Wainfleet Lions Club starts 9:30 a.m. at the Wainfleet Firefighters Memorial Hall. Pledge sheets are available

at the township office, library, Wainfleet, Acornia Donut, Diner, Jackson's Auto Body and Wellandport Home Hardware & Farm Supply Store. For more information, contact the Lions Clubs' Martin VanGool at 905-835-8423 or George DeRuyte at 289-820-6163.

ONGOING**PATHSTONE MENTAL HEALTH**

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Continued on page 21

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E-READERS

and Chromebooks are now available for loan at Port

Colborne Public Library. Drop by the library for more information.

MAKERS' MARKET

vendors wanted. The Guild Hall Makers' Market, 72 Charlotte St., Port Colborne runs Fridays 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. starting April 25. To inquire call Mary at 905-835-0394 or the church office at 905-834-3184.

ECUMENICAL LENTEN

services are being held at St. James & St. Brendan Church, 55 Charlotte St., Port Colborne, featuring a guest speaker and music. The noon services are every Thursday from March 20 to April 17, followed by a soup and bread lunch. Price of lunch is \$5.

A CAPELLA NIAGARA

Men's Chorus invites singers for fun, fellowship and fabulous four-part harmony at

Welland Community Wellness Complex, 145 Lincoln St., on Tuesday nights at 7:30. For information call Kerry at 269-820-5584 or Bob at 905-892-2336.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

Anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one, meetings are every second and fourth Thursdays of the month at St. Kevin's church (Hospitality Room) from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.,

303 Niagara St. Call 905-732-3969 for further information.

SPAN

(Single Person Association of Niagara) is a social club since 1982 for mature singles who meet and mingle at Iggy's Pub, 115 Hwy. 20, Thornhill, every Tuesday 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Members get a monthly calendar of social activities. For further information call Lynne at 905-788-0359.

ALZHEIMER SOCIETY

of Niagara Region support groups for care partners meet the first Tuesday of the month, 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Welland Community Wellness Complex, and second Wednesday of the month, same time, at Foyer Richelleu. For information, call 905-681-3914.

Continued on page 22

SPOTLIGHT

on service



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or just try out a craft that you have never found time for? Take some time for yourself, come out to the library and bring the crafting project you are working on, make new friends and share your ideas.

THE ART OF JAKE PEEKSTOK

is at Haldimand County Museum and

Archives, 86 Ego St. W., Cayuga, until April 28.

KNITTING CLASSES

at Port Colborne Public Library, Tuesdays 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. or Thursdays 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. to March 20 with instructor Vicki Fretz. Call 905-835-5373.

NIAGARA BONSAI SOCIETY

meets on the third Sunday of each month, 1:30 p.m. at St. Michael's Church, 41 Byron St. (across from Simco Park), Niagara-on-the-Lake. All are welcome. For further information contact niagrabonsai@gmail.com.

DOCUMENTARY SERIES

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the First World War, Port Colborne Public Library will present a monthly documentary film during the entire year of 2014. The documentaries will be shown on the second

Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. At several sessions, speakers will be available to talk about the Great War. For more information, contact the library at 905-834-6512.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

needed by Community Support Services of Niagara, within and outside the region. Volunteers are reimbursed mileage and hours are flexible (between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday to Friday). Call Laura Dumas at 905-788-3181 ext. 27 or e-mail ldumas@csscna.com for more program details. You can also visit www.csscna.ca.

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LYME DISEASE: WHAT MAKES IT TICK?

As temperatures begin to finally rise across southern Ontario after several weeks of gloomy weather, many Niagara residents are eager to bring out their summer wardrobe.

However, it doesn't take long before we quickly remember that along with the summer heat comes the return of mosquitoes, spiders, and ticks. In Ontario, most residents are well informed about the illnesses mosquitoes can spread and ways of protecting yourself. But how informed are we about ticks?

There are many different species of ticks; however, the one that is of concern is the blacklegged tick, also known as the deer tick. This sessile sized tick can be the host to the bacteria that can cause Lyme disease, which, if untreated, can result in arthritis, heart problems, and various nervous system problems. The American brown dog tick is approximately half a centimeter and has not been shown to carry Lyme disease.

The Niagara region has a high concentration of ticks, especially in the areas surrounding Lake Erie. The Niagara Health Department recommends wearing pants and long sleeved shirts when walking in wooded areas to minimize the chances of a tick bite.

If you notice a tick has attached to your skin, it should be removed immediately by grabbing the head with a pair of tweezers and pulling straight up. Do not try to burn the tick off of the skin using a match or lighter. The area should be then be washed with soap and water. If you are unable to remove the entire tick, you should give your doctor a call and they can remove it for you. The tick can be brought to the health department for analysis to see if it was infected with the bacteria that causes Lyme disease.

Ticks often pick up the bacteria that cause Lyme disease while feeding on infected rodents. However, it should be noted that most ticks are not carriers.

The majority of people who are bitten by ticks do not develop Lyme disease, however if you notice a red bullseye rash on the skin, develop a fever, headache or muscle and joint pains, you should seek medical attention. The symptoms typically develop within 1 to 2 weeks of a bite. Lyme disease can often be cured with antibiotics if treatment is started early.

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